



See page 9 for schedule

Oct. 31, 2003**Vol. 20 No. 43**

School receives paper donation

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writers



Odessa Morris, president of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Rising Star 71, John Fletcher, Stephen Decatur Elementary School assistant principal, Renae Johnson, treasurer of the OES, and OES member Nelly Lewis pose with the paper the group donated while delivering it to the school.

in their budget. This arises from time to time. "Typically we do run out towards the end of the fiscal year and then we have to wait for a while for the new budget to kick in and it has not done so yet."

Paper donation, page 12

New spouses orientation

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writers

What is all that stuff on a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)? Where can one fly on Space Available flights? Just what does my spouses detailer do?

These questions and much more were answered at Naval Air Station Sigonella's first Fleet and Family Support Center's (FFSC) New Spouse Orientation course held on Oct. 17.

New (and not so new) spouses were presented with a host of information on the Navy's inner workings and information that they may have had questions on, but didn't know who to ask. There are a few key concepts that were made known.

"The chain of command is really big," said Alexia Lunningham, FFSC indoctrination coordinator and training instructor. "The Navy mission is really big." She also said that expectations of the military for new spouses are also important. "It's a total culture shock because the Navy is culture in and of itself. So their expectations might be vastly different from the reality."

A new spouse should also know about the resources available to them. "Resources such as the FFSC, chaplains, Navy-Marine-Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), volunteer organizations, and organizations they can get involved with such as the Fil-Am association or Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts," said Lunningham. "Anything that gets you involved in your community."

New spouse, page 13

Today's Hometown Weather

El Paso, TX



High 81° F - Low 53° F
Partly cloudy

Students get taste of NASSIG

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writers

Italian students from a school in Sicily visited Naval Air Station Sigonella on Oct. 21 to get a taste of life on a military base.

The students from the Istituto Comprensivo Statale in Giardini Naxos, Sicily, toured various areas of the base from the fire department to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) to a visit with our fuzzy friends at Security's Military Working Dog Unit.

The students first learned how Sigonella combats fires and other emergencies by taking a look at the fire department's trucks and special equipment. They then made their way to the HC-4 Hangar, where they were exposed to the heavy lifting of the MH-53E "Sea Dragon." It was the first time most of the students and staff from the school have been exposed to such equipment. Many of the students snapped pictures in front of the huge rotary-winged aircraft.

"I've never seen a helicopter that close," said Mario Rapisarda, principal of the school. "At first I thought they looked like an old train."

Students were able to use what English skills they possessed while on the tour. Most students used the simple, "Hello, how are you" and "bye bye" phrases. Their use of English was one of the reasons for the tour. "We were interested in showing our students a base where they speak English," said Rapisarda.

They then met some military personnel who do not speak English or Italian. Security's military working dogs. MWD Ceazar showed the students his explosive sniffing skills, while MWD Tara gave a demonstration on patrol techniques. MA1 James Hansen then brought out Tara for an up close and personal meeting with the students. Needless to say, the German Shepherd had many fans.

The students were excited to be on board Sigonella for a while. "They are very interested in the base," said Rapisarda. "It is the first time that we have had such close up [exposure] with the American Military world." Rapisarda said the tour was beneficial for the students to "have knowledge of the positive role and mission of the base," he said. "And of course to find out more about an American base on Italian soil and how it interacts culturally with the local community."

Tour, page 11



A Sailor shows students from the Istituto Comprensivo Statale in Giardini Naxos around inside an MH-53E "Sea Dragon" Helicopter in the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) hangar. The students visited the base to find out about an American base on Italian soil and how it interacts with the local community. It was the first time these students were exposed to things like the huge MH-53E "Sea Dragon" helicopters.

Microsoft System Administrator Certification comes to Sigonella IT workers

By JO2(SW) Brian Johnson
Staff writers

Recently Naval Air Station Sigonella offered training and certification for Microsoft System Administrator bringing part of the Navy's new Task Force Excel Five Vector Model to Sicily.

The course, which has been offered at other bases in Europe before its debut here at NASSIG, will hopefully be offered on a recurring basis. Mike Sloane, the regional training authority, emphasized, "there is a need for training people without experience. We are trying to get [Information Technology specialists] the training opportunities [because]; Sigonella has the largest concentration of IT outside the U.S. This course will make people better at their job."

The course, which is two weeks long, cov-



ITC(SW) Seth Erxleben teaches students Microsoft System Administration in hopes that they will all get certified.

ers Windows 2000 professional installation and administration, installation of Windows 2000 server, managing Microsoft 2000 network and Windows 2000 infrastructure. "There are four tests students take to get

certified," said ITC(SW) Seth Erxleben, an IT trainer from London. "Currently this course is aimed at getting the ITs certified and then anyone in the military or [Department of Defense] civilians can take the course."

Erxleben went on to explain the impact this certification has had on the IT community in London. "We have 32 ITs in London with 130 certifications and we have gone from having 100 trouble calls leftover at the end of each day to waiting for them to

come in," he said. "It has helped out tremendously."

IT1(SW) Andre Myles, a student, agrees the course is needed, but feels the course is

MCSA, page 13



Direct Line

Capt. T.L. Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

College life...studying, playing, studying, Greek societies, studying, sports, studying...did I mention studying? Yes, that's definitely part of the program when you attend college.

What a wonderful time I had as a "Lumberjack" at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. I wanted to make the most of the educational opportunities we have. So should you!

For the seniors at Stephen Decatur School (and those students being home-schooled), now is the time to start deciding which college you would like to attend next Fall. We had a successful College Night at the school this past Wednesday. Mrs. Shiloh Cooper did an excellent job putting it all together. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped as well.

Have you considered possibly a trip to one of the service academies (U.S. Naval Academy...hint, hint)? Do you know that your state representative and senator can appoint students to the academy? Members of the U.S. Congress are asked each year to make military academy nominations. This is to ensure a wide range of students from across the nation attend the academies. Members of Congress - who account for three-fourths of all appointments - may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by federal law. U.S. Senators nominate from applicants in their entire state, while U.S. Representatives nominate from applicants residing in their congressional districts. Applicants may apply for and receive nominations from both their Senators and their Representative. This decision can easily change someone's life and is quite possibly the most important decision a member of Congress will make each year.

Don't wait until that last minute to ask for an appointment! Some Congressional members have deadlines in the Fall, but most have their deadlines from November to mid-January. Just check with your Congressional district or at (www.house.gov) to find out more information on the appointment process and individual deadlines. Without a doubt, the military academies are some of the finest schools in our great nation (though my favorite uncle that tells me that the University of Wisconsin is the best, and the Public Works Officer swears the "Gators" of the University of Florida is the place to be). Not only do they teach academics, but instill discipline, commitment and leadership in our young Americans who attend. Your college education is also paid for by the grateful nation that you'll serve.

For our active-duty Sailors, you have a great opportunity here at NAS Sigonella as well. Not only can you apply for a service academy appointment (check with the career counselor's office), but also you can attend college right here! We have the University of Phoenix, City College of Chicago, Embry-Riddle, Central Texas College, University of Maryland and more! The Navy College Office (624-2519 or www.navycollege.mil) can help you out. It's located right across the street from the Navy Federal Credit Union.

Lee Iacocca once said, "Apply yourself. Get all the education you can, but then...do something. Don't just stand there, make it happen."

It's your life...make the most of it through education!

The Pulse

USNH Sigonella Laboratory Earns Accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks

Courtesy U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella

Sigonella, Sicily-USNH Sigonella Laboratory has been granted accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), according to Dr. Robert C. Stabley Medical Director.

Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially trained AABB assessors and establishes that the level of medical, technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards set by the AABB. By successfully meeting those requirements, USNH Sigonella Laboratory joins approximately 2,000 similar facilities across the United

States and abroad that have earned the AABB Accreditation.

"The AABB's Accreditation procedures are voluntary," Dr. Robert C. Stabley Medical Director explained. "USNH Sigonella Laboratory has brought AABB Accreditation because this program assists facilities around the country in achieving excellence by promoting a level of professional and medical expertise that contributes to quality performance."

Since 1958, the AABB has been engaged in the accreditation of blood banks and transfusion services. The Accreditation Program assists blood banks and transfusion services in determining whether methods, procedures, personnel knowledge, equipment and the physical plant meet established requirements. The minimum requirements for accreditation of blood banks and transfusion services are based primarily on the AABB's *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services*. These standards not only reflect the level of professional proficiency for blood banks and transfusion services in the United States, but also provide the basis for practice on similar facilities around the world.

Established in 1947, the AABB is the international association of community blood centers, hospital blood banks and transfusion and transplantation services. Individual members include health care professionals in blood banking and transfusion medicine. Its member facilities are responsible for collecting virtually all of the nation's blood supply and for transfusing more than 80 percent of the blood used for patient care in the United States. The AABB sets standards, assesses and certifies blood collection and transfusion facilities, and provides continuing education and information.



CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Oct. 20 - Oct. 26

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 10
Traffic accident with injuries - 2
Car break-ins - 6
DUI - 2
DUI's 2003 - 47
DUI's 2002 - 35

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JO2 (SW) Brian Johnson

Volunteers needed for Tax Center

From Navy Legal Service Office

Looking for the opportunity to learn a valuable skill and to stand out amongst your peers? The Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) Detachment Sigonella is now calling for volunteers to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for Tax Year 2003!

The VITA program provides a tangible economic benefit - free tax preparation and filing - to every active duty and retired member of the U.S. Navy, their dependents, and all DoD civilian employees accompanying armed forces overseas. In recent years, approximately 55% of those eligible have taken advantage of the VITA program. Unfortunately, due to problems and costs in obtaining updated computer equipment for tax centers, as well as the advent of the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI), CONUS Naval Legal Service Offices will NO longer sponsor or run a VITA Program! However, to accommodate those serving at overseas locations, OCONUS Naval Legal Service Offices will continue operating the program as usual. So take advantage of this invaluable program while it lasts!

The VITA program works like this: the headquarters for the Judge Advocate General's Corps (thanks to the television series "JAG," most of us recognize that JAG is Navy speak for Navy lawyer) coordinates getting training and forms from state governments and the Internal Revenue Service sent to our installations and getting our sites designated to electronically file returns. Our local Naval Legal Service Office then coordinates all of the logistics, including procuring physical spaces, computers and other necessary equipment, and training volunteer personnel to work in the Tax Center.

The IRS lends great support to our VITA program. The IRS in recent years has sent personnel onboard our military installations to provide a one week basic tax training course to the VITA volunteers. Navy lawyers from JAG Corps headquarters then go out to the installations and teach a one-week advanced tax training course. There is also an additional 3-5 day training session on the use of the tax filing software.

Last year, the VITA program Tax Center at Sigonella benefited thousands of military and DoD Tax Center, page 8

What you need to know about Leishmaniasis

Courtesy NEPMU-7

Leishmaniasis is a potentially serious disease found here in Sicily. It is a disease that affects both humans and dogs. Although the risk of human disease is low, rates of dog infections are higher. It is important that residents of the island understand the disease and how it is transmitted, so that the risks for humans and dogs can be further reduced.

The organism that causes leishmaniasis is a microscopic parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected sandfly. The parasite is found throughout Sicily. The coastal areas surrounding the city of Catania have historically been areas of increased risk for leishmaniasis. Infected dogs and rats harbor the parasite, which can then be picked up by sand flies that feed on their blood. The flies can then pass the parasite on to an uninfected dog or human. Pet dogs that become infected and are not treated can become a source of hu-

man Sand flies are extremely small biting flies that are abundant in many areas of Sicily. The eggs are laid in moist soil or other nutrient-rich surfaces where the worm-like larvae live and feed. In the hot dry summer months they are likely to be found in areas that have sufficient food, warmth, and humidity such as in rock walls, rodent burrows, caves, heavy vegetation, wood piles, and cracks in cement or brick walls. The flying adults are normally weak flyers and usually will not fly far from the areas in which they breed and rest. Sand flies are most active, and more likely to bite during the warmer months of the year; from May to October. You and your pet are more likely to be bitten by sand flies between sundown and sunrise. Sand flies are sometimes mistakenly called "sand fleas", because their small size and tendency to bite at night makes them difficult to recognize as flying insects.

In both humans and dogs it is possible to be infected and not

show any symptoms for months or not show any symptoms at all. It may appear in the form of a skin lesion, which can heal by itself within weeks to months. It usually starts as a small papule and progresses to an ulcerated lesion. Another form affects internal organs and can be fatal if not treated. Signs of this form of disease include fever, enlargement of the liver and spleen, rapid loss of weight, and weakness.

How to protecting yourself and your pet

- Use flea collars on pets or collar specifically designed for sand flies.
- Wash or spray pets with a flea control insecticide labeled for use on pets.
- If windows lack screening, close windows at night.
- Wear repellents containing Deet when going outside at night.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants and shoes at night.
- If your dog is regularly ex-

Leishmaniasis, page 8

Anger Management

By Chaplain
Tommy
Myhand
Command
Chaplain

Do any of you ever get angry? I do from time to time. A few weeks ago I "blew my top" trying to repair one of my vehicles. While I'm not a mechanic I thought I could save a few bucks and maybe even learn something about how a car engine works. Yeah, right! Well my little project turned into a major pain. Along the lines of bloody knuckles, never having the right tools underneath the car which meant crawling out from under the car... Well, by the time it was over I felt like a yo-yo moving back and forth so much. My event turned into an all day affair. When the last bolt was tightened, instead of being happy that the job was over, I was seeing red and my veins were popping out around my neck. My wife came outside to check on me, and ask how I was doing. I then let her know I was angry. Well she sorted me out quickly enough and gave me an attitude adjustment rather quickly.

Did you know anger is the second most frequently mentioned emotion in the bible? It is second only to love. What is interesting about anger is that it's the secondary emotion, it always seems to cover up the real issue. When something sets us off it can be the result of past hurts, past frustration, and even the fear of the future.

Anger can be shown in different ways. Some suppress it, while others, when they finally have had enough, go all out with fury, wrath, and rage and let out the steam. "Think Mt. Etna." Others get angry and they complain all the time, go into depression, gossip, and can even become forgetful and lazy. These examples are just a few ways people express their emotion of anger. There are many more ways anger can be expressed and it basically means we all need to be careful. Have you ever said hurtful words in anger and then you realized the pain it just caused. Oops!

The Bible says, be angry - that's right - you can be angry but there is more to the verse - don't sin. Anger can be used constructively. Martin Luther King Jr. was angry at the injustice going on in the 1960's and he used "constructive anger" to bring about reform. We can make our emotion of anger work in such constructive ways.

I hope and pray I will somehow learn to control this emotion in a constructive way the next time I work on my car. I will not be tempted to take a sledgehammer to it; besides, I don't want to be the "Poster Child" for the future anger management classes. I hope the same for you. Work out, take a walk, talk things over...it is amazing how much better you can do because you don't explode use better "release valves". Guess what? No one gets hurt when we handle anger constructively...especially you and the ones you love.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m.
Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m.
(NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

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NAVY NEWS

Navy implements new learning approach in Great Lakes

By Lt. Cmdr. Gary Kirchner, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) — Imagine an "A" school without instructors and lectures. A new computer-based training program called Electricity, Electronic, Communications and Radar (EEC&R), a core competency training, is now being tested at Great Lakes.

Right now, 90 Sailors are involved in a pilot that uses interactive courseware, facilitators — not instructors — and student-issued Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

This new approach is designed to provide Sailors the technical fundamentals and problem solving skills needed to their jobs.

The Center for Surface Combat Systems is leading a pilot program involving eight ratings: Fire Controlman, Electronics Technician, Electrician's Mate, Interior Communications Technician, Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical), Sonar Technician (Surface), Aviation Electrician's Mate, and Aviation Electronics Technician. Eventually, all ratings with significant EEC&R related competencies will use this training.

"This training is the first step toward building a whole new array of educational tools that will connect basic con-

cepts with real life situations," said Lt. Cmdr. Danny Bouchard, officer-in-charge at CSCS Detachment in Great Lakes. "We are now creating a learning environment that is learner-centered, not teacher-centered."

EEC&R is online training taught in a resident environment. A leading petty officer is assigned to lead a class of students, and resource specialists who know the topics and software will help Sailors as needed. The students' PDAs are pre-loaded with lesson summaries, review questions and reference materials. Laptops are also available as an additional study resource.

This training will be included in an Integrated Learning Environment, which the Naval Personnel Development Command is building to support a Sailor's 5 Vector Model learning requirements. In the near future, self-paced interactive courseware will be just a click away.

"The EEC&R pilot is a significant milestone in our effort to bring the right training, at the right time and in the right place to our Sailors," said Rear Adm. Kevin Moran, commander of Naval Personnel Development Command/Task Force EXCEL. "In the coming months, we will be testing other training for the aviation, administration, engineering and submarine rates."

USS Samuel B. Roberts Yields First Drug Bust

From USS Samuel B. Roberts Public Affairs

ABOARD USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (NNS) — Innovative tactics, vigilant watch standing, a concerted team effort, and patience proved to be virtues aboard USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) during her first drug bust. Teaming up with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 401 and Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 44 Detachment 7, the frigate, commanded by Cmdr. Michael A. Hall, recently seized a large cache of cocaine in the Eastern Pacific.

Roberts began her six-month counter-drug operations deployment to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility on Sept. 25. While working with other assets from Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) South, the agency responsible for counter-drug operations in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, Roberts received information on a possible drug smuggler.

While waiting for the right circumstances, the crew patiently tracked the vessel and formulated a boarding plan.

"Extremely accurate information provided by JIATF South, coupled with surveillance done by HSL-44 Detachment 7, were vital to the mission's success," said Ensign Chris Klutch, Roberts' combat information center officer. "The helicopter, Magnum 450, lifted off the deck well before first light and flew into the morning, providing target localization, identification and tracking of the vessel."

Before sunrise, Roberts launched her Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) and covertly closed the distance between the warship and the suspect vessel. Approaching at a high rate of speed, Roberts hoisted the Coast Guard Ensign, representing that she was under tactical control of the Coast Guard. With the Coast Guard Ensign closed-up and gunnery stations manned, Roberts began the boarding after access to spaces was granted by Coast Guard District 11. Promptly, the search turned out positive evidence of illegal cargo.

"Often, special hidden compartments are created to conceal the drugs, and a thorough search is necessary to locate the contraband," said Lt. j.g. Nick Skyles, the Law Enforcement Detachment officer



Souda Bay, Crete (Apr. 25, 2002) — A Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) crew assigned to the U.S. Navy frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) look on as their ship arrives for a scheduled port visit. Roberts is assigned to NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean and is currently deployed in support of Operation Active Endeavor. Task Force Active Endeavor will maintain an active presence in the operational area of the Mediterranean east of Sicily, as a demonstration of the solidarity and resolve of the Alliance in the war against terrorism.

in charge.

Almost immediately, the team passed reports to Roberts that there was fresh paint on bulkheads, cement bags and cement-spreading tools, new bolts and fittings and large unaccounted-for space; all indications of hidden compartments.

The team quickly located the concealed cocaine, approximately 2.8 metric tons behind a newly constructed bulkhead. Proving difficult to extract due to an inch of cement and several inches of steel, Damage Control Assistant Officer Ensign Tom Delaney and Hull Technician 1st Class Shannon Coen assisted the Coast Guard Team in accessing the hidden compartment. Nearly seven hours later, the space was entered and the drugs extracted. Worth more than \$58 million on the street, the 7,250 lbs. of cocaine was seized for use as evidence.

Eight men of Colombian origin were turned over to proper authorities. The detainees will be tried and if found guilty, will likely receive sentences of 25-35 years in federal prison.

When asked about the importance of counter-drug operations, the Ledet OIC said, "The counter-drug mission is extremely important." **Drug Bust, page 13**

Remember Uniform shift to blues is Monday, Nov. 3.

New Package Pick-up Procedures

Starting Monday November 3, all personal packages will be held at the Fleet Mail Center on NAS II for customer pick-up. In conjunction with this change, package pick-up hours will be increased to 0900 – 1900 seven days a week. You will still receive the yellow notice informing you that you have a package. Just bring this slip along with your identification card to the newly completed package pick-up window at the Fleet Mail Center. The Fleet Mail Center is located directly across the street from the Personal Property Office on the west end of NAS II.



Last Carrier Strike Group Returns Home From Combat Operations

By Commander, 3rd Fleet Public Affairs



F/A-18 Hornets assigned to the "Mighty Shrikes" of Strike Fighter Squadron Ninety Four (VFA-94), fly over the Western Pacific Ocean in a diamond formation during flight operations.

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — The last Carrier Strike Group (CSG) from the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom is returning home. The Nimitz CSG is scheduled to return to its homeport of San Diego Nov. 5, following a highly successful eight-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59) and combat support ship USS Bridge (AOE 10) will first make a brief port call in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Oct. 27, before getting underway for their final leg home Oct. 31.

The first ship from the Nimitz CSG to return home will be the Pearl Harbor-based Aegis cruiser, USS Chosin (CG 65), arriving Naval Station Pearl Harbor Nov. 2.

As Nimitz approaches the Southern California coast Nov. 4, Carrier Air Wing 11 squadrons will be next to make homecomings, as they conduct a "fly off" of more than 70 aircraft from the aircraft carrier. The aircrews and aircraft will fly into the following four homeports: Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.; Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.; Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, Calif.; Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

The following day, Nov. 5, Nimitz will pull into San Diego Bay and moor at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.

During the ship's deployment, Nimitz flew more than 6,500 missions in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, this was the first deployment of the F/A-18F Super Hornet (two-seat version) and E-2C Hawkeye 2000. Nimitz is also the first aircraft carrier to deploy with two Super Hornet squadrons. This was Nimitz's first deployment since their major overhaul in 1997 and its first since relocating to San Diego in

Strike Group, page 8

News Briefs

TSP Correction

The numbers in last week's paper are from Thrift Savings Plan 2003. The open season for 2004 began Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 31. Contributions to TSP can range from as little as one percent to nine percent of basic pay. Bonus, special or incentive pay may also be contributed; up to \$13,000 IRS tax limit permitted this year. For those serving in a combat zone, the current ceiling for contributions is \$40,000. Basic pay contributions will be limited only by IRS rules.

New Dental Policy

Due to the recent high failure rate, the low operational dental readiness percentage for NASSIG and short notices to cancel appointments, the dental clinic will be strictly enforcing its failure policy. If you must cancel your appointment, at least 24 hours notice must be given to allow scheduling of other patients in your appointment slot. If you fail an appointment, you or your sponsor's Command Dental Liaison will be contacted for appropriate disciplinary action. For active duty personnel, a second failure may be reported to your Commanding Officer as a violation of UCMJ Article 86 and appropriate disciplinary action. For family members, a second failure will result in dental emergency care only and routine treatment on space available basis.

Sig MOMS Club Yardsale

MOMS Club is holding a yard sale in Mineo on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of brand new toys to be donated to the "Toys for Tots" Christmas drive. If you would like to donate some items or need more information call Mechelle at 624-0338.

Theater prizes

MWR Theater, NMPS, and AT&T are having a Military Family Appreciation Month Scratch for Snacks Promotion at the NAS 1 Theater.

From Nov. 1-30 every movie patron will receive one scratch and win game piece per visit from the theater box office. When the coupon is scratched, it will reveal a concession prize. 1 in 3 win.

Losing tickets can be entered into the 2nd Chance Drawing that will be held after the last movie on Nov. 30. All eligible patrons can enter to win one of the following:

- (1) Playstation 2 with one game, and 2 DVD movies
- (1) DVD Player with 2 DVD movies
- (3) DVD Movie sets
- (3) Free Movie Coupons

For information please call 624-4216.

Command Assessment Survey

Through Nov. 12

Let your voice be heard on EO issues including:
**Advancement
 Retention
 Awards
 Discipline
 Sexual Harrassment**

Find the CAT Survey on Infosig under What's New.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Palermo Opera Theatre opens its 2003/2004 season

During the 2003-04 season (Nov. 15 to May 29), operas by Bizet, Wagner and Cimarosa and many others, will be staged at the Palermo Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele. The schedule, which is rich and varied, consists of seven operas featuring acclaimed Italian and international musicians and opera singers.

For over 100 years, the Teatro Massimo Opera House, which was designed by architect G.B. Filippo Basile, has been offering high quality entertainment to the Palermo's area and Sicily. It was a well-cheered performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff*, featuring talented baritone Arturo Pessina in the title role, which christened Palermo's newest opera company on May 16, 1897. At that time, the Teatro was the second most important opera house in Europe after the Paris Opera. The theatre was closed in 1974 for renovations and refurbishment that lasted until 1997 when it was restored to its original splendor.

The opera season begins with *Il Matrimonio Segreto* (The Secret Marriage), the most popular of Domenico Cimarosa's 65 operas. The plot is intriguing and complex, involving a social-climbing Italian father who tries to marry off his elder daughter to a British lord, who prefers to wed the (already secretly married) younger daughter. This humorous and lighthearted opera will be performed on Nov. 15 at 8:30 p.m., Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 22 at 8:30 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* will be performed on Dec. 12 at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Based on Grimm's familiar fairy tale of two children sent away from home to find food, only to find instead that they are lost and in danger because of an

evil witch who tries to turn them into gingerbread so that she can eat them.

The opera *Luisa Miller* by Giuseppe Verdi will be performed on Jan. 16, at 8:30 p.m., Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 18, 2004 at 5:30 p.m., Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 21, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 24, at 8:30 p.m.

This opera was freely adapted from the play *Kabale und Liebe* (Intrigue and Love) by the great German playwright Johann C. F. von Schiller. Set in a small village in a Tyrolean area ruled by a count in the first half of the 17th Century, this opera tells of Rodolfo, the son of Count Walter, who has fallen in love with a peasant girl, Luisa and conceals his identity in order to test her love. But Count Walter has other plans for Rodolfo, as he wants him to marry a wealthy widow to strengthen his own position. What follows is a saga of intrigue, blackmail, revenge and suicide.

Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* will be presented on Feb. 22, at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 27, at 8:30 p.m.

Additional performances, which are not included in the subscriptions, will be held on Feb. 18, 2004 at 8:30 p.m., Feb. 19, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 20, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 21, at 8:30 p.m.

This opera features a colorful Spanish 19th century setting and tells the dramatic story of a seductive gypsy named Carmen who is killed by her lover.

Il prigioniero (The Prisoner) by Luigi Dallapiccola (1904-1975), was composed between 1944 and 1948 and is about the psychological torture of an inmate, perpetrated by the Inquisition.

This opera will be performed on March 23, at 8:30 p.m., March 24, at 6:30 p.m., March 25, at 6:30 p.m., March 26 at 6:30 p.m., March 27, at 8:30 p.m. and March 28, at 5:30 p.m.

Der Fliegende Holländer

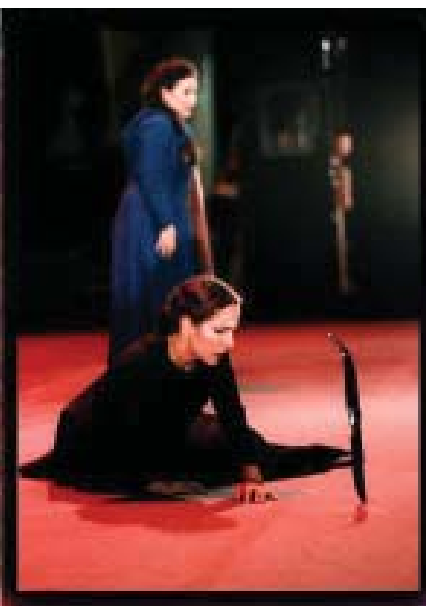
(The Flying Dutchman) is universally acknowledged as Richard Wagner's first truly significant, original operatic masterpieces. It features story of a Dutch ship captain, who is driven by a curse to sail the seas for ever until he finds a woman who will love and be faithful to him for life.

The opera will be presented on May 18, at 8:30 p.m., May 20, at 6:30 p.m., May 23, at 5:30 p.m., May 25, at 6:30 p.m., May 27, at 8:30 p.m. and May 30, at 5:30 p.m.

The last offering of the opera's season will be Gaetano Donizetti's *Elisir D'amore*. It tells the story of Nemorino a truehearted peasant and the rich, beautiful and coquettish Adina, whose love he finally wins.

This opera will be performed on June 16, at 8:30 p.m., June 17, at 6:30 p.m., June 18, at 6:30 p.m., June 19 at 8:30 p.m., June 20, at 5:30 p.m., June 22, at 6:30 p.m. June 23, at 6:30 p.m. and June 24, at 6:30 p.m.

The season also includes ballets and concerts. For more information on opera subscriptions or single tickets call 091/6053555 or toll-free number 800-655858. You can also visit the following website: <http://www.teatro Massimo.it/inglese/frameset.html>.



George Bizet's *Carmen* will be presented by the Palermo Teatro Massimo Opera House from Feb. 18 through 27, 2004. With her radiant voice French mezzo-soprano Béatrice Uria-Monzon, a star of the operatic stages, will be singing the title role.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| COMMUNITY CALENDAR | | | | | | October 31 Autumn Fest Oct. 31 through Nov. 1. Call x5271 for more information. |
| | | | | | | 1 Old Fashioned Auction At Autumn Fest. Call x5606/x5187 to sign up. Auctioneer needed. |
| 2 Troina & Agrituristic Farm ITT Call 624-4396 | 3 Uniform Change Switch to blues today. | 4 Arrivederci Sigonella noon to 4 p.m. Indoc Class | 5 Marshmallow Building Contest 3 to 4 p.m. Teen Center | 6 Anger Management 3 to 4 p.m. NAVHOSP2A-111 | 7 Picture Day Preschool Sure Start Kindergarten Call 624-4281 | 8 3-on-3 Hoops Tourney 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. NAS II Gym Call 624-2710 |
| 9 Lipari Express ITT Call 624-4396 | 10 Military Visits in honor of Veterans Day BLAST | 11 Veterans Day | 12 Japanese and Sushi Dine-out have \$10 Euro paid for Liberty Call 624-5187 | 13 Expectant Dads noon to 1 p.m. Public Works | 14 Catania History ITT Call 624-4396 | 15 5K Off-road Turkey Trot Capt. Cup event. Call 624-2710 |
| 16 Cefalu and Castlebuono Agrituristic Farm ITT Call 624-4396 | | 18 Beary Special Sibs 3 to 4:30 p.m. Pediatrics Waiting Area Call 624-4291 | 19 Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing | 20 Military Family Appreciation Booth 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. NAS I Commissary Call 624-4291 | 21 Catania by Night Liberty Call 624-5187 | 22 Operations Seasons Greetings time TBD holiday music variety show NEX parking lot |
| | 24 Frozen Turkey Bowling 12:30 a.m. Toss some turkeys for prizes Take 5 | 25 Thanksgiving Dinner 6 to 8 p.m. all parents welcome BLAST | 26 Pre-Teens Turkey Toss prizes for top three tosses Youth Activies Center | 27 Happy Thanksgiving | 28 Thanksgiving Swim It Off prizes for most laps in one hour register at NAS II Pool | 29 Decoration Day Breakfast help decorate for the holiday and bring some holiday cheer free breakfast for all decorators. |



Word Find

Silhouettes

WFOOTBALLGPKFZNEJNXDLLJHC
 OOOYUMDMNSOICULRPGNGIEEOLA
 MZRTTHVHAQGLIUOOICHPGVULOC
 ZUBRISRADDUTSACPRSNIRREWT
 CXSQAECNZTSXWACRABGBGZDU
 MAVHMDQABDFEQAGDLJLBZZUTS
 USNORONENCTLEERTSAMTSIRHC
 SDODXONAPOADDTXTSUBARRELE
 TBOOYOORWNEENOQSDHDKMTYCL
 AZXLBCEMAEOEALDWOAOTIZOLOP
 CMKHPTANXMBCYUSTPRUTMLPNE
 HZSEZHANDIAMONDAISNEEAOC
 EIXEYBIBEYEFWNGGYEHBKZRHT
 WMLVUSUNEJBQYOMJESGSADDYS
 FAELELPAMKTODUFZWHUDMDRPP
 NIKPMUPTNNAAPPLEUOOSIKAOJ
 TRAEHWRNGELRQPHPEDLRMRENO
 JLVWFYKIOHUIFAKCCORMAHSTEV
 NLMDOEEYFHLSLWBELECIZMSWF
 OIBUTTERFLYMPMOPSIWSWQAMK
 THLHEWAPGATESONNNVWL LCOOF
 AIOHOZZTLERUGFJTESQRJRRHOF
 DMREIMCBETPSHXTSHWUOAORNH
 CILZLFVPEFDPKFFLTSHWTKGEIP
 EHTYCSCECPWPSRGTJMNSXZOOXL

PIPE
 PRETZEL
 PUMPKIN
 PYRAMID
 SCYTHE
 SHAMROCK
 SNOWFLAKE
 STAR
 STEEPLE
 STOPSIGN
 TEARDROP
 TEEPEE
 TULIP
 VIOLIN
 WISHBONE

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| ACORN | BUTTERFLY | DOLPHIN | KITE |
| ANGEL | CACTUS | DOUGHNUT | LIPS |
| APPLE | CANDLESTICK | DUMBELL | MAPLELEAF |
| BANANA | CANDYCANE | EYE | MUSHROOM |
| BARREL | CANOE | FOOTBALL | MUSTACHE |
| BELL | CHRISTMASTREE | HAND | NEWMOON |
| BOOMERANG | CONCH | HEART | NOSE |
| BOWANDARROW | CRAB | HORSESHOE | PAGODA |
| BOWTIE | CROWN | HOURLASS | PALMTREE |
| | DIAMOND | KEY | PEAR |

TRIVIA

- 1) Japanese legend has it that people who suddenly start to overeat, talk gibberish, and fret about whether their faces are getting longer, are said to be possessed by what?
- 2) What does the name Chupacabras mean?
- 3) What was rumored to have been seen in the capitol during President James Garfield's funeral?
- 4) What fell on the English village ofacle in Oct. 1683?
- 5) What was the name of the ship used in the Philadelphia experiment?

(Answers on page 8)

Movie Connection

AMC's Theater Schedule

Friday, Oct. 31



5:30 p.m.
 Jeepers Creepers 2 (R)**



8 p.m.
 Mystic River (R)**

Monday, Nov. 3



5:30 p.m.
 Spy Kids 3D: Game Over (PG-13)*



8 p.m.
 The Order (R)

Saturday, Nov. 1



1 p.m.
 Spy Kids 3D: Game Over (PG)



3:30 p.m.
 Out of Time (PG-13)



6 p.m.
 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star (PG-13)**

Theater Closed Tuesdays

Wednesday, Nov. 5



5:30 p.m.
 Freddy Vs. Jason (R)*



8 p.m.
 Mystic River (R)

Thursday, Nov. 6



5:30 p.m.
 The Medallion (PG-13)



8 p.m.
 Jeepers Creepers 2 (R)

Sunday, Nov. 2



1 p.m.
 The Medallion (PG-13)



3:30 p.m.
 The Rundown (PG-13)



6 p.m.
 Jeepers Creepers 2 (R)

Friday, Nov. 7



5:30 p.m.
 Matchstick Men (PG-13)



8 p.m.
 Cabin Fever (R)**

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Volunteer and mentor program makes a difference

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
 Staff writer

In the Sigonella community, there are many ways to volunteer and be involved. One way, whether civilian or active duty, is through the Stephen Decatur High School. Stephen Decatur offers a variety of volunteer and mentor programs geared toward helping students.

SMILE, or Students and Mentors in Life Experiences, was first created five years ago. It has been a work in progress and has recently seen more changes this school year.

Volunteers interested in the mentor program must turn in an application to be considered. Background checks on individuals volunteering are very thorough. Mentors must be reliable and have professional and personnel references. If background checks are successful, volunteers are interviewed. A match is then found for them depending on their personalities.

The mentor program was created for students grades six through 12 to offer opportunities aimed at furthering social, emotional, and academic growth and providing positive adult interaction in their lives. According to Shiloh Cooper, SMILE program manager and special programs coordinator, the school is able to concentrate on the youth's interests and broaden their horizons, one-on-one adult mentoring, peer mentoring, tutoring, mediation under adult supervision and team mentoring in specific interest areas.

The program helps create career awareness; set realistic goals for achievements and better prepare the students for life after graduation. SMILE aims at teaching students to recognize their interests and pursue their dreams. The program provides youth with positive and successful adult role models, resources, academic support services, career awareness, knowledge of the workplace and learning opportunities to form productive members of society. The program establishes a peer-helping organization, which provides assistance and leadership in conflict management, tutoring and prevention of adolescent peer pressure.

According to Cooper, SMILE makes a huge impact on not only the children's lives, but the mentor's as well. Teachers and family members have seen differences in the children's behavior. The students have better relationships with parents, trust, honesty, and a heightened self-awareness. Students have even noticed a change in their grades, attitude, and confidence over time. They are also less likely to cut class or break the law.

Through the mentor program Cooper hopes to provide Sigonella's youth with the resources they need to become successful and productive adults who engage in healthy lifestyles and experience positive relationships.

By actively participating in the program volunteers share what they have learned with someone who appreciates their time and talents. "...the mentoring program provides volunteers with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction for taking some of their time to provide positive guidance, support and encouragement to a young person," Cooper said.

Fri. Oct. 31

Participate in some Wild and Wacky Liberty Games at Autumn Fest. Come to the MWR tent to find out when and what we'll be playing. Takes place through Nov. 1.

It's Frozen Friday at Take 5. Beat the heat with free popsicles all day while supplies last.

Sat. Nov. 1

ITT is off to Enna, the highest town on the island of Sicily and home to a Norman castle and wonderful museum. Enjoy lunch at an agriturismo followed by a visit to the Imperial Villa del Casale where you can admire the magnificent mosaic pavements dating back to the 3rd Century A.D. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Buy your Christmas gifts in time to mail them home on Liberty's Saturday shopping trip to the Catania market. Sign up and pay by Friday Oct. 31 at Take 5. For more information on Liberty events, call x5187.

Sun. Nov. 2

Visit Troina with ITT. The town is located in the middle of Sicily, deep in the Nebrodi Park. Surrounded by picturesque woods and pastures. Troina abounds with examples of baroque and medieval architecture. After the tour, kick back at Le Quercie Di Cota, an old Sicilian farm converted to a restaurant.

Mon. Nov. 3

It's BINGO time at the Crater Pub! Grab your doobers and try your luck. You might just walk away with the \$1,500 jackpot! Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tues. Nov. 4

Can you sink my battleship? The winner will take home a DVD, CD or t-shirt. Free to play and win. Starts at 4:30 p.m. at Take 5.

Wed. Nov. 5

Come by JOX Sports Bar and chill out with their live DJ who will spin the best in Modern Rock, R&B, Hip-Hop, Dance, Country and Classic Rock.

Thurs. Nov. 6

Aye Carumba, it's National Nacho Day. Celebrate America's favorite snack food with a free order of small nachos at Take 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This week on...

Mon. Nov 3 - 60 Minutes
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Tue. Nov 4 - Movie: The Matrix
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Nov 5 - Boston Public
 AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

Thu. Nov 6 - The Bachelor
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Fri. Nov 7 - Survivor: Pearl Island
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 106.0 ZFM 6 - 9 AM FOR THE VOID MORNING SHOW

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

Tax Center from page 2

civilians. The Center filed a total of 2,462 returns, serving 60% of the NASSIG population, and collecting over 3.2 million dollars in refunds for Sigonellans. A conservative estimate indicates that Sigonellans collectively would have paid approximately 227 thousand dollars for services comparable to those we were able to provide free-of-charge at our Tax Center.

Here at Sigonella, it takes about 5 full-time personnel and 25-30 committed volunteers to make the VITA Program functional. The NLSO is now taking names of active duty and civilian personnel interested in volunteering for Tax Year 2003. Interested persons can either sign up at the NLSO's customer service counter in Building 564 (next to the NAS II Galley) or they can call the NLSO and ask to speak to this year's Tax Officer, LT Giovanna Mosca, at 624-5258. The NLSO will assist active duty members in seeking permission from their chain of command to participate in the VITA program, if desired. Training sessions will begin in January 2004.

The NLSO staff looks forward to the opportunity to work with more outstanding volunteers in Tax Year 2003!

Leishmaniasis from page 2

posed to Sandfly bites and you suspect your dog is infected, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

- Avoid areas with large populations of stray dogs or prevent them from entering your yard.
- Do not allow your dog to wander unattended outside your yard and come into contact with stray dogs.
- Control or exclude rodents around your home.
- Remove rock and woodpiles and other debris from your yard; they attract rodents and sand flies.
- Stay indoors or keep pets indoors between sundown and sunrise.

Strike Group from page 3

2001.

Princeton will also return to her homeport Nov. 5 at Naval Station San Diego. During her deployment, Princeton escorted Nimitz while performing duties as Arabian Gulf Air Defense Commander and Tactical Data Coordinator. Princeton also spent several weeks as the Northern Arabian Gulf Maritime Intercept Commander, directing a coalition of naval forces providing security throughout Iraqi territorial waterways.

Also returning to San Diego is the Nimitz Strike Group's Sea Combat Commander, Destroyer Squadron (CDS) 23, the famed squadron of former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke during World War II. Throughout the deployment, the staff coordinated defense of the Strike Group against surface and sub-surface threats. They also served as Escort Coordinator in the Arabian Gulf, assigning escort ships to military and merchant ships transiting through strategic waterways.

The carrier strike group's fast combat support ship, Bridge, will also arrive home to Naval Station Bremerton, Nov. 5. Bridge's crew conducted more than 200 underway replenishment evolutions, delivering more than 90 million gallons of fuel to CSG ships and enabling them to maintain a constant presence in the region.

The Aegis destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) returns home to Naval Station San Diego Nov. 8. Fitzgerald provided escort of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) during air strikes into Iraq and was later designated flagship for Commander of Maritime Interception Operations in the North Arabian Gulf. Fitzgerald also served in an Air Defense role for U.S. and coalition ships operating in the Gulf of Oman and North Arabian Sea, in addition to escort of merchant ships.

USS Rodney M. Davis (FFG 60) will be the final Nimitz CSG ship to return home, arriving in Everett, Wash., Nov. 10, after making a brief stop in San Diego Nov. 7 to offload its helicopter detachment. During the deployment, Rodney M. Davis was designated as flagship for the commander of Maritime Interception Operations in the North Arabian Gulf, intercepting ships suspected of transporting illegal cargo, and also conducted similar operations with coalition forces in the Southern Arabian Gulf. When not in the North Arabian Gulf, Rodney M. Davis escorted numerous merchant and military ships through strategic waterways delivering critical supplies, troops, and humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

Nimitz and her crew departed San Diego March 3. The Nimitz CSG demonstrated the flexibility of U.S. naval forces by providing support in the 3rd, 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility, all in a single deployment. First of the Nimitz-class carriers, Nimitz was commissioned May 3, 1975. Displacing more than 95,000 tons, Nimitz is home to more than 5,000 Sailors, as well as approximately 70 combat and support aircraft. From her 4.5-acre flight deck, Nimitz can quickly launch and recover the world's most modern military aircraft to operate with other elements of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as those of allied nations.

Schedule of Events for Autumn Fest 2003

Today 3pm - midnight
Saturday Noon-midnight

Today

3:00 Festival opens with craft bazaar, food and game booths and Carnival rides
3-5 p.m. Haunted House open especially for kids (\$1.50 entrance at the old Laundromat building)
5-7 p.m. Inflatable's are up open and ready for action
5:30-7 p.m. Fitness event-Bench Press
7-midnight Haunted House is open for all (\$3.00 entrance at the old Laundromat building)
6-8 p.m. Trunk or Treat is happening along the road leading up to the festival
Liberty Wild and Wacky games (adults only) including Mummy Wrap, a pie eating contest and the Candy Kiss-off Competition
8pm Youth costume contest on the main stage
8:30-10 p.m. Live Music – Band Marconi (Rock Music)
10 p.m. Adult costume contest. \$100 cash money for the winner of each category. Categories include best homemade costume, scariest and funniest.
10:30-11:45 p.m. Live Music – Pastafarians (Reggae)
midnight Festival ends until tomorrow!



Photos courtesy of MWR

Saturday

Noon Festival opens with fun inflatable games, Carnival rides craft bazaar, and food and game booths
Noon-3 p.m. Youth Soccer Closing Ceremonies
3-5 p.m. Youth games including a pie eating contest and tricycle race with pumpkin obstacles
3:00-5:00 Haunted House open especially for kids (\$1.50 entrance at the old Laundromat building)
5-6 p.m. "Dog's on Parade" Costume Contest
6 p.m. Booth decorating awards announcement.
6-7 p.m. Fitness event- Arm Wrestling
7-midnight Haunted House is open for all (\$3.00 entrance at the old Laundromat building)
7-8:30 p.m. Live Music - Blue and Blues as seen open for BB King
9:00-10 p.m. Live Music – Second Chances Band (Rock)
10-11:45 p.m. DJ Dancing And Music
midnight Festival ends

Children stop by to get some candy during Trunk or Treat at Autumn Fest. Colorful costumes are the norm at Autumn-Fest. There is a costume contest.



Photos courtesy of MWR

Don't miss your chance to listen and win at the festival with MWR's trivia challenge going on throughout both days at the Festival.

Tour from page 1

The end of the tour marked a visit to another American institution, the fast food restaurant. The school also took part in a cultural exchange with students from Stephen Decatur Schools on Thursday.



(Left) A student from the Istituto Comprensivo Statale in Giardini Naxos tries on a helmet used by members of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) in the HC-4 hangar. The students visited the base to find out about an American on Italian soil and how it interacts with the local community. It was the first time these students were exposed to things like the huge MH-53E "Sea Dragon" helicopters. .

Paper donation from page 1

The group found out about the need the old fashioned way. "We just found out through word of mouth," said Odessa Morris, president of the group. She also said kids were coming home complaining about having to write on the back of old paper.

This isn't the first time the group helped the school out with paper. "We did it twice last year right near the end of school," said Morris.

"It's a wonderful gesture on their behalf," said Fletcher. "We appreciate the community coming forward to do this. They have gone beyond what anyone would expect in challenging the community to please come help the children. Not everybody has a child, but we hope everyone has a vested interest in the schools."

"We do encourage other non-profit organizations, the commands, the community and everybody to do whatever they can," said Morris. "It doesn't have to be paper donations, they can volunteer their time. Time is valuable too."

The organization does various things on and off base, such as cleaning up at churches and helping out at a local orphanage. "All the money we make from fundraisers throughout the year we give back to the community," said Morris. "We find different places of need that we can meet and

Housing Authority to Survey Government Housing Residents

By Peter Vietti, Housing PAO

Have you ever heard it said, "Change is necessary for positive growth"? Government housing residents can bring about positive changes through participation in an upcoming survey. On November 5th, Housing will be distributing its 2nd annual Navy Family Housing service and satisfaction survey. The objective of this survey is to measure residents' approval of their Navy family housing living conditions. The survey consists of sections concerning maintenance repair work (trouble call response), communication (perceived effectiveness),

safety (perception of personal security, services (personal programs) and neighborhood appearance.

According to Sandra Peterson, Housing Director, "The first annual survey, distributed in 2002 did not provide significant response regarding Sigonella's housing programs. We are asking all government housing residents to commit 10 minutes for filling out this important assessment survey. Information provided will assist us in problem areas, which can directly improve quality of life for our residents".

The local Housing Welcome Center often receives feedback from its residents through its

trouble call desk, Military Liaison, Public Affairs Officer and Intranet website. These avenues of comment and criticism are good, but do not give much-needed quantitative data needed to support and bring about change.

Housing residents can expect to receive a copy of the survey November 5th delivered right to their door. Please take the time to fill it out and return in the pre-paid postage envelope. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this upcoming survey, please contact Peter Vietti, Housing PAO at 624-3818 or email at pvietti@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Halloween Safety tips for parents and motorists

From National Safety Council

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities.

Both children and adults need to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe.

Motorists

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.

- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.

- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.

- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

Costume Design

Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.

- Costumes should be loose so warm clothes can be worn underneath.
- Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.)

- If children are allowed out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of retroreflective tape should be used to make children visible

Face Design

- Masks can obstruct a child's vision. Use facial make-

up instead.

- When buying special Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for application.

- If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

Accessories

- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.

- Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after dark.

- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

On the way

- Children should understand and follow these rules:
- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.

- Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.

- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

Treats

- To ensure a safe trick-or-treat outing, parents are urged to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.

- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

Trivia Answers

- 1) *Goblin Foxes*
- 2) *Goat Sucker*
- 3) *His ghost*
- 4) *small toads*
- 5) *USS Eldridge*

New spouse from page 1

munity because we're so co-dependent on each other."

For military spouse Barbara Byrd, just being able to read an LES is a bonus of the course. "I'm new to the military and I haven't a clue how to read all of the acronyms and all of the different things they put on an LES," she said. "My husband goes, 'well here's my LES,' and I'm thinking, this is Chinese to me."

Byrd also was happy to learn how many options are open to the spouse as well. "I always thought that the chaplains office was just for the military personnel," she said. "She touched on so much that I know I'm going to go home and spread out this stuff all over the table. Just connecting with people is definitely your best resource because in the little bit of time that I've been here I've really connected with a lot of ladies and it really helped the transition coming from the states."

Although dealing with being in a new county is tough, dealing with being a part of the military community can be just as tough. "I think just understanding the military is big for them," said Lunningham. "They're stepping into a foreign country within a country. Even in America if you're

a new spouse and you're coming in to the Navy, depending where you're at, you're still going into a totally different country. They're speaking different languages and you have to deal with things such as housing and the chain of command. Here you have to go through so much and you have to know so much. It's difficult to navigate if you have no idea."

The course was beneficial for Byrd, and she recommends it to others. "Especially if you're newly married into the military because it will help you understand some of things your spouse goes through," Byrd said. "Mine is always one of support, but this gave me information so I can help him even more, especially with the different things he needs to do to make rank. I wrote down a few things and I can't wait to go talk to him about it."

The course is not only for new spouses, though. "Sometimes there's spouses who just need a refresher," Lunningham said.

Lunningham said the FFSC will try to hold the orientation twice per year. "It depends on community need," she said. "If we get people calling up saying they'd like to attend, then definitely we'll have more."

Drug Bust from page 3

tant because of the direct impact it has on the streets of America. The illicit narcotics we interdict are the same drugs that reach our kids and our neighbor's kids. It's gratifying to know that lives may be saved every time we stop those drugs from reaching our shores, which is why it's essential for us to be out here."

Homeported in Mayport, Fla., Roberts is a Commander, Naval Surface Group 2 ship, assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron 14. During the ship's deployment, the crew will be patrolling nearly 4 million nautical

miles of water in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

"It is very satisfying to see all the training and hard work pay dividends with such a well-executed takedown and bust of the suspected vessel," said Hall. "I am extremely proud of the officers and crew, for the patience and professionalism that was necessary to complete this difficult case."

An all hands effort, the feeling of the crew was best summarized by Fire Control Technician 2nd Class (SW) Aaron Nunn, who helped onboard the 2.8 metric tons of cocaine.

MCSA from page 1

"crammed and rushed. I think it needs to be more spaced out." Myles also feels the course is "not good for beginners, you need a background in the material covered to have an understanding of what is being talked about," he said.

Myles feelings on the course are something Sloane understands. "We are looking at offering courses that provide a building block to these courses like A+, N+, Server + and Security+," he said. "Junior personnel may not be ready for this and it's important that we give them the opportunity to get these certifications."

Another student, ET2 Jessica Moreland agrees with Myles about the amount of information presented in the course but explains, "it's a lot to learn in two weeks but it can be done. It helps if you have some knowledge of this material," she said. "Having a foundation is necessary to get certified."

Moreland went on to explain "the goal is to get certified, but even if you don't get certified people can go back and benefit their command with the knowledge they get from this course. And on top of that if someone doesn't feel like they are ready to take the certification test when the time comes they can always take the test later because they give you a certificate to take the test within 90 days."

Not all the students are from Sigonella, some traveled from other places for the opportunity to get this certification. IT2 Cole Johns came from Naples to get his certification. "Certain parts of this course are hard, but I think it's easier for people who don't live here because we don't have anything to do except study," he said.

Johns also explained how the training in this course is a great opportunity for Sailors. "This is a civilian course, it just happens to be taught by a military member, which means in the civilian world a person would pay about \$5,000 for this certification, we are getting it for free," he said. "Another thing is a lot of times the Navy fly someone down and the instructor doesn't know a lot of the information, this instructor knows, he is very knowledgeable."

Erxleben pointed out that for these courses to be certified by the civilian world the instructors need to be certified to teach the course, which he is, along with a laundry list of other certifications.

Sloane pointed out that "the vouchers the people can get allow them to take the test here in Sigonella, and now that we are a Pearson-VUE testing center there are many others who can take certification tests here," he said. "The fire department is going to use the center for some certifications they need to get and because we are a PearsonVUE testing center what used to take two weeks now takes one day. This is a huge step in the right direction." Of the 14 students who took the MCSA course 10 are now Microsoft-certified professionals.

Sloane also explained how offering these certifications falls into the Navy's five vector model of professional development, personal development, leadership, certifications and qualifications, and performance. "These certifications are equivalent to the civilian standard, which will help a Sailor get a job on the outside if they choose not to stay in the navy, but if they do choose to stay they will continue to get training at the level of the civilian world," he said. "This is also part of the blended work and training idea, which involves computer based courses, Instructor taught courses and on-the-job training."